

THE COMING OF URBAN THE FIFTH

will find in heaven and within their own souls (for each is the seat of God), the other on earth and in his proper place, that place which the Lord chose, in which the first of His vicars dwelt when he lived, and still remains though dead. Thou hast restored brightness to our world, and, rising like the sun, hast put to flight the coldness of long night and the powers of darkness. The neglect of five pontiffs, equal to thee in rank but not in soul, and of more than sixty years, hast thou alone in a few days repaired." Urban has brought the Church back to her ancient seat; let him complete his work by restoring her to her old state of purity and dignity, and begin by reforming the luxury and pomp of the cardinals. Let him look to the legates and papal officials, who are usurping the lordship of the Italian cities, and ruling them with such unheard-of tyranny that Peter is amazed, and Christ, in indignant wonder, is threatening vengeance : " And, unless He from heaven and thou on earth come to the rescue (for the, Italians seem drugged and lie in slumber), it will be all over with us ; we shall soon see Italy reduced to servitude, and the Church literally militant, in arms and fighting for temporal sovereignty instead of for the faith ; we shall see her triumphant, too, so that the fame thereof reaches heaven and the stars, and individual ecclesiastics ruling in triumph over this or that city—until, when those who now slumber are awakened, all things are overthrown and reformed by a terrible revolution." " Then turn not aside from the way by which thou hast started, for there is none straighter to salvation ; the time is short, the journey long, and the hope of the reward will make the labour light. Beware of looking back ; for thou knowest that *he who has set hand to the f lough and looketh back, cannot enter into the kingdom of God*" " If I heard that thou wast departing, I should not believe unless I saw ; and if I saw it with my own eyes, I should find it difficult to believe them. So great is the hope that I have set upon thee and upon thy virtues."¹

This virile language found an echo in the Pope's heart. He urged the poet, both directly and through the Patriarch of ¹ *Rerum Senitium*, Lib. IX. ep. i (undated).